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THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Sleeping Beauty
IN THE
WOOD.

An Oriental Tale.



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THE
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Sleeping Beauty, &c.



THERE was formerly, in a distant country, a King and Queen, the most beautiful and happy pair in the universe, having nothing to alloy their joy but the want of children to participate in the pleasures they enjoyed. This was all their concern. Physicians, waters, vows, and offerings were tried, but all to no purpose. At last however, the Queen proved with child, and in due time was brought to bed of a daughter. At the christening the Princess had seven fairies for her god-mothers, which were all they could find in the whole kingdom, that every one of them might give her a gift.

The christening being over, a grand feast was prepared to entertain and thank the fairies; before each of them was placed a magnificent cover, with a case of massy gold, wherein were a spoon, a knife and fork of pure gold, and exquisite workmanship, set with divers precious stones; but as they were all sitting down at the table, they saw come into the hall a very old fairy, whom they had not invited, because it was near fifty years since she had been out of a certain tower, and was thought to have been dead or enchanted.



The King ordered her a cover but he could not furnish her with a case of gold as the others had, because he had only seven made for the seven fairies. The old fairy fancied she was slighted by not being treated in the same sumptuous manner as the rest, and murmured out some threats between her teeth.

One of the young fairies that sat by her overheard how she grumbled, and judging that she might give the little Princess some unlucky gift she went as soon as they arose from the table

and hid herself behind the hanging, that she might speak last and repair as much as she possible could, the evil which the old fairy might intend.

In the mean time all the fairies began to give their gifts to the Princess in the following manner.

The youngest gave her for a gift, she should be the most beautiful person in the world.

The second, that she should have wit like an angel.

The third, that she should have a wonderful grace in every thing that she did.

The fourth that she should dance perfectly well.

The fifth, that she should sing perfectly well.

And the sixth, that she should play on all kinds of music to the utmost perfection.

The old fairy's turn coming next, she advanced forward, and with a shaking head, which seemed to shew more spite than age, she said, that the Princess should have her finger pierced with a spindle, and die of the wound.

This terrible gift made the whole company tremble; and every one fell to crying.

At this very instant, the young fairy came out from behind the curtains and spoke these words.

aloud. Assure yourselves O King and Queen, that your daughter shall not die of this disaster; it is true, I have no power to undo what my elder hath done. The princess shall indeed pierce her hand with a spindle; but instead of dying, she shall only fall into a profound sleep, which shall last an hundred years; at the expiration of which time, a King's son shall come and awake her from it.

The King to avoid this misfortune told by the old spleenetic and malicious fairy, caused immediately his royal proclamation to be issued forth, whereby every body was forbidden upon pain of death, to spin with a distaff or spindle; nay even so much as to have a spindle in any of their houses.



About fifteen or sixteen years after, the King and Queen having gone to one of their houses of pleasure, the young Princess happened one day to divert herself in going up and down the palace, when going from one apartment to another she a-

length came to a little room at the top of a tower, where a good old woman all alone was spinning with her spindle.

This good woman had not heard of the King's proclamation issued forth against Spindles,

What are you doing of there, Good ? said the Princess.—I am spinning my pretty child, said the old woman, who did not know who she was — Ha ! said the Princess, this is very pretty ; how do you do it ? Give it me that I may try if I can do so. The old woman to satisfy the child's curiosity granted her request. She had no sooner taken it in her hand, whether being very hasty at it, somewhat handy, or that the decree of the spiteful fairy had ordained it, is not to be certainly ascertained ; but however it immediately ran into her hand, and she directly fell down upon the ground in a swoon.

The good old woman not knowing what to do in this affair, cried out for help. People flocked from all quarters in great number ; some threw water on the Princess's face, unlaced her, struck her on the palms of her hands and rubbed her temples with Hungary water. But all they could do would not bring her to herself.

The good Fairy, who had saved her life, by condemning her to sleep a hundred years, was in the kingdom of Marakin, twelve thousand leagues off when this accident befel the Princess ;

but she was instantly informed of it by a little dwarf, who had boots that travelled seven leagues at one stride. The Fairy left the kingdom immediately and arrived at the Palace, in about an hour after, in a firey chariot, drawn by dragons.

The King handed her out of the chariot and she approved of every thing he had done ; but as she had a very great foresight she thought, when the Princess should awake she might not know what to do with herself, being all alone in this old palace, she touched with her wand every thing in it (except the KING and QUEEN) Governesses, Maids of Honour, Ladies of the Bed-chamber, Gentlemen, Officers, Stewards, Cooks, under Cooks, and Scullions ; Guards with their Beef-eaters, Pages and Footmen. She likewise touched all the horses which were in the stable, as well pads as others, the great dogs in the outward court, and the pretty little Mopsey too, the Princess's little spaniel bitch, which lay by her on the bed.

Immediately upon touching them, they all fell asleep, that they might not wake before their mistress, and that they might be ready to wait on her when she wanted them. The very spits at the fire, as full as they could be of partridges, and pheasants, and every thing in the palace, whether animate or inanimate, did fall asleep also.

All this was done in a moment; for the Fairies are not long in doing their business. And now the King and Queen having kissed their dear child, without waking her, went out of the palace, and put forth a proclamation, that nobody should dare to come near it. This however was unnecessary, for in less than a quarter of an hour there grew up all round about the park, such a vast number of trees, great and small bushes and brambles, twining one within another, that neither man nor beast could pass through; so that nothing could be seen but the very tops of the towers of the palace; and not that too, unless it was a good way off. Nobody doubted but the Fairy gave therein a very extraordinary sample of her arts that the Princess should not, while she continued sleeping, have any thing to fear from any curious people.



When an hundred years were gone and past, the son of a King then reigning, and who was of another family from that of the sleeping Princess, being out a hunting on that side of the country, asked what those towers were which he

saw in the middle of a great thick wood? Every one answered according as they had heard ; some said that it was an old ruinous castle haunted by spirits ; others, that all the sorcerers and witches of the country kept their sabbath or weekly meeting in this place.

The most commen opinion was that an Ogree lived there and that he carried thither all the little children he could catch, that he might eat them up at his leisure, without any body's being able to follow him, as having himself only power to pass through the wood.

The prince was at a stand not knowing what to believe, when an aged man spoke to him thus,

“ May it please your Highness,

It is above fifty years since I heard from my father, who heard my grand-mother say, that there was then in this castle a Princess, the most beautiful that ever was seen, that she must sleep there an hundred years and should be waked by a King's son, for whom she was reserved.

The young prince was all on a fire at these words, believing without considering the matter, that he could put an end to this rare adventure ; and pushed on by love and honour, resolved that moment to look into it.

Scarce had he advanced towards the wood, when all the great trees, bushes and brambles gave way of their own accord, and let him pass through, he went up to the castle, which he law up the avenue, which he went into ; and what not a little surprised him, was, that he saw none of his people could follow him, because the trees closed again so soon as he passed through them. However, he did not cease from valiantly following his way, he came into a spacious outward court, where every thing he saw might have frozen up the most fearless person with horror. There was all over the palace a most horrid silence ; the image of death every where shewed itself, and there was nothing to be seen but stretched out bodies of men and animals, all seeming to be dead. He, however, very well knew by the ruby faces and pimple noses of the beef-eaters, that they were only asleep, and their goblets in which still remained some few drops of wine, plainly shewed they had all fell asleep in their cups.

He then crossed a court paved with marble, went up the stairs, and came into the guard chamber, where the guards were standing in their ranks, with muskets upon their shoulders, and snoring as loud as they could. After that, he went through several rooms full of Gentlemen and Ladies, all asleep, some standing and others sitting.

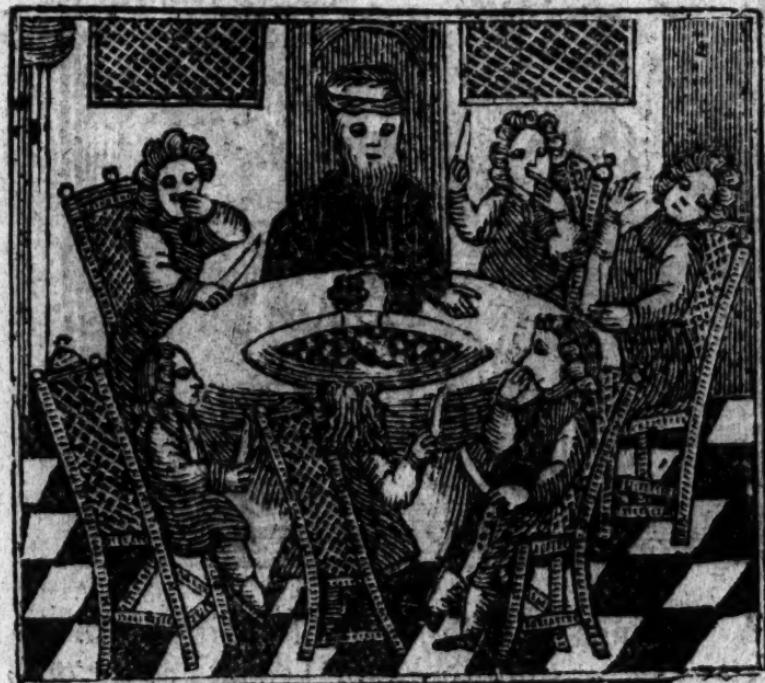
At last, he caine into a chamber all gilt with gold ; here he saw upon a bed, the curtains of which were all open, the finest sight that ever he beheld ; a Princess, who appeared to be about fifteen or sixteen years of age, and whose bright and in a manner resplendant beauty, had somewhat in it divine ; he approached with trembling and admiration, and fell down before her on his knees.

And now as the enchantment was at a end, the Princess awaked, and looking on him with eyes more tender than the first view might seem to admit of ; Is it you my Prince ? said she to him ; you have waited a long time ?

The Prince charmed with these words, and much more with the manner in which they were spoken, knew not how to shew his joy and gratitude ; he assured her that he loved her better than himself. Their discourse was not so well conducted, they did weep more than talk, little eloquence and a great deal of love. He was more at a loss than she, and we need not wonder at it, she had time to think on what to say to him ; for it is very probable, though the history mentions nothing of it, that the good fairy, during so long a sleep had given her very agreeable dreams. In short they talked four hours together, and yet said not half what they had got to say.

In the mean time all the palace awaked, every one thinking on his particular business ; and as

all of them were not in love they were ready to die with hunger ; the chief lady of honour being as sharp set as the others, grew very impatient, and told the Princess aloud, that supper was served up. The Prince helped the Princess to rise, she was entirely dressed, and very magnificently ; but his Royal Highness did not tell her that she was dressed like his great grandmother, and had a point band peeping over a high collar ; but however, she looked not less beautiful and charming for all that.



They went into the greathall of looking-glasses where they supped, and were served by the Princess's officers ; the violins and hautboys

played old tunes, but very excellent, though now it was an hundred years since they had played ; and after supper, without losing any time, the Lord Almoner married them in the chapel of the castle, and the chief Lady of Honour drew the curtains. They had but very little sleep, the Princess had no occasion, and the Prince left her next morning to return into the city, where his father had been in great pain for him.



The Prince told him he had lost his way in the forest as he was hunting, and had lain at the cottage of a collier, who had given him some bread and cheese.

The King, his father, who was a very good man, readily believed him, but his mother the Queen could not be persuaded that this was altogether true, and seeing that he went almost every day a hunting, and that he had always some excuse ready for so doing, though he had lain out three or four nights together, she began to suspect and very justly too, his having some private amour in hand, of which, he endeavoured she should remain ignorant.

Now the frequent excursion which he then made from the palace, were that he might retire to the princess, with whom he lived after this manner for above two years, and by whom he had two fine children the youngest of which was a girl, whom they named Morning, and the eldest a boy whom they named Day, because he was a great deal handsomer, and much more beautiful and comely than his sister.

The Queen's jealousy encreasing, she several times spoke to her son, desiring him to inform her after what manner he spent his time; alledging, that as he saw her very uneasy concerning the matter he ought in duty to satisfy her. But he never dared to trust her with his secrets, he feared her tho' he loved her, for she was of the race of Ogres, and the King would certainly never have married her, had it not been for her vast riches.

It was whispered about the court that she had Ogerish inclinations, and that whenever she saw any little children going by, she had all the difficulty in the world to refrain falling upon them, and so the prince would never tell her one word.

But when the King was dead, which happened about two years afterwards, and he saw himself Lord and Master, he then openly declared his marriage, and went in great ceremony to conduct his Queen to the palace. They made a magnificent entry into the capital city, she riding in a triumphal car, with her two children beside her.



Some time after, the King went to make war with the Emperor Cantalahute his neighbour.

He left the government of the kingdom to the queen his mother, and earnestly recommended to her the care of his wife and children. He was obliged to set out immediately, and continue his

expedition all the summer — As soon as he was departed, the Queen sent for her daughter-in-law to come to her, and then sent her to a country house among the woods, that she might with more ease and secrecy gratify her most horrid and beastly inclinations.

Some few days after she went to this country-house herself, and calling for the clerk of the kitchen, said to him, I have a mind to eat little Morning for my dinner to morrow.

Ah! Madam, replied the clerk of the kitchen in a surprise. — No excuse replied she, interrupting him, I will have it so; and this she spoke in the tone of an Ogress, seeming to have a strong desire to taste fresh meat; and to make the dish more delicious, added she, I will eat her with sauce robert.*

The poor man knowing very well how dangerous it was to play tricks with Ogresses, took his knife and went into little Morning's chamber, she was then four years old, and came up to him jumping and laughing to take him about the neck and ask him for some sugar candy; on which he began to weep, the great knife fell out of his

* This is a French sauce made up with onions, shred and boiled tender in butter; to which is added vinegar mustard salt, pepper, and a little wine..

hand, and he went out into the back yard, and killed a little lamb and dressed it, with such good sauce, that his Mistress assured him she had never eaten any thing so good in all her life.

He had at the same time taken up little Morning and carried her to his wife, in order that she might be concealed in a lodging he had at the bottom of the court yard.



The Queen's lascivious appetite, according to her own apprehensions, being once humoured, she again began to long for another dainty bit; accordingly a few days after she again called for the clerk of the kitchen, and told him that she intended that night to sup upon little Day.

He answered her never a word, being resolved to cheat her as he had done before. He went

out to find little Day, and saw him with a little foil in his hand with which he was fencing with a great monkey : the child being but three years of age, he took him up in his arms and carried him to his wife, that she might take care of him and conceal him along with his sister, and in the room of little Day, cooked up a young kid, very tender, and which the Ogress praised as much as the former, saying it was wonderful nice.

All hitherto was mighty well ; but a few weeks after this craving Ogress said to the Clerk of the kitchen, I will also eat the young Queen with the same sauce I had with her children.

Now was the critical time that the poor Clerk despaired of being able to deceive her.



The young queen was turn'd twenty years of age (not counting the hundred years she had been asleep.) though her skin was somewhat tough, fair and beautiful ; and how to find in the yard

a beast so firm, was what puzzled and made him at a loss.

He then took a resolution that he must save his own life, and cut the Queen's throat; and going into her chamber, with an intent to do it at once, he put himself into as great fury as he could, and went into the Queen's room with the dagger in his hand; however his humanity would not allow him to surprise her, but he told her with a great deal of respect the orders he had from the Queen her mother.—Do it, said she, and stretching out her neck, execute your orders, and then I shall go and see my children, my dear children, whom I so dearly and tenderly loved. For she thought them dead, ever since they had been taken away from her.

No, no, fair Princess, cried the humane clerk, all in tears, you shall not die, and yet you shall see your children again, but then you must go home with me to my lodgings, where I have concealed them, and I shall deceive the Queen once more, by giving her another young kid in your stead.

Upon this, he forthwith conducted her to his chamber, where leaving her to embrace her children, and cry aloud with them, he went and dressed a young kid, which the Queen eat for supper, with the same appetite as if it had been the young Queen.

Now she was exceedingly delighted with this unheard of unparalleled cruelty, and she had invented a story to tell the King at his return how the mad wolves had eaten up the Queen his wife and her two children.



One evening some time after, as she was according to her usual custom, rambling about the court and yards of the palace, to see if she could smell any fresh meat, she heard in a ground room, little Day crying for his mother, was going to whip him because he had been guilty of some fault; and she heard at the same time little Morning soliciting pardon for her brother.

The Ogress presently knew the voice of her and her children, and being quite in a rage to think she had been thus deceived, she commanded next morning by break of day (in a most horrid voice that made every one tremble) that they should bring into the middle of the great court a very large tub, the which she caused to be filled with toads, vipers, snakes, and all sorts of serpents, in order to have thrown into it the Queen & her children, the Clerk of the kitchen, his wife and maid; all of whom she had given orders to be brought thither with their hands tied behind them, to suffer the vengeance of the incensed Ogress.

They were brought out accordingly, and the executioners were just going to throw them into the tub, when the King who was not so soon expected, entered the court on horse back, for he came post, and asked with



the utmost astonishment, what was the meaning of that most horrid spectacle? No one dared to tell him; When the Ogress all enraged to see what had happened, threw

herself head foremost into the tub, and was instantly devoured by the ugly creatures, she had ordered to be thrown into it for others.

The King could not but chuse being very sorry, for she was his mother; but he soon comforted himself with his beautiful wife and his two pretty children.—And after all things were settled, he well rewarded the Clerk of the kitchen for his humanity and compassion.



THE MORAL.

TO get a husband rich, genteel, and gay,
Of humour sweet some time to stay,

Is natural enough 'tis true;

But then to wait an hundred years,
And all the while asleep appears

A thing entirely new.

Now at this time of day,
Not one of all the sex we see,
To sleep with such tranquility,

But yet this fable seems to let us know,
That very often Hymen's bliss is sweet,
Altho' some tedious obstacles they meet

Which makes us for them a long while to stay,
Are not less happy for approaching flow,

And that we nothing lose by such delay;
But warm'd by nature's lambent fires,
The sex so ardently aspires,
Of this blest state the sacred joys to embrace,
And with such earnest heart pursue 'em,
I've not the will I must confess,
Nor yet the power or fine address,
To preach this moral to 'em.

F I N I S.

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